Research In Open Software

3855. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to fund the research in Open Software or Free Software; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is promoting research in Free/Open Source Software area by supporting various institutions to foster research and development in this area.

1. Under Indian Language Computing Initiative, National Roll Out project is being implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC). Under this project, the open source softwares such as Office suite, Browser, E-mail client have been localized for 10 Indian languages. The localization of these softwares for balance 12 Constitutionally recognized languages is underway.

2. A National Resource Centre for Free/Open Source Software (NRCFOSS) has been set up by CDAC with the objective of development of F/OSS technology and solutions. The Centre has developed an Indian version of Linux desktop operating system (Bharat Operating System Solutions-BOSS) supporting Indian Language.

3. National Informatics Centre (NIC) has initiated e-governance applications based on open source and open standards like "Computerization of Police station", "Below Poverty Line Database", "District Suite" etc. Also, specialized application Collab CAD in the area of Computer Aided Design and Manufacture, based on Free/Open Source Solutions has been developed, which is being used by major scientific organizations in the country. NIC has also started an Open Technology Centre.